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Important Resources

2008 Flood Resource Center
www.flood2008.iowa.gov

**Apply for assistance
FEMA Registration**
1-800-621.3362

Volunteer
Iowa Concern Hot Line
1-800-447-1985

www.flood2008.iowa.gov
(*Volunteer Opportunities* link in
Navigation box)

Donate
Embrace Iowa 515.447.4222
www.embraceiowa.org

Safeguard Iowa Partnership
www.flood2008.iowa.gov
(*Donations* link in Navigation
box)

Iowans Begin Recovery with HMGP Grants

One program that has drawn and will continue to draw media attention is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), otherwise known as the buyout program. Property acquired under this grant is an important part of Iowa's recovery efforts. Over the next weeks and months state HMGP staff will be working very closely with the 38 cities and counties who have indicated an interest in participating in this grant.

As a starting point, here are the main points to remember about the grant:

- HMGP is a mitigation program, and is designed to minimize the impact of future disaster events. While individuals affected by the floods and severe weather are encouraged to sign up for all of the assistance programs available to them, this is a grant program and is not a direct individual assistance program.
- HMGP is a state program administered by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). Often times it has been incorrectly reported that this is a FEMA program. Although 75 percent



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Approved Disaster Funding Tops \$729 Million

More than \$729 million in disaster aid has been approved for Iowa homeowners, renters, businesses, and government and non-profit entities affected by this spring's flooding and tornadoes.

As of Oct. 7, \$729.4 million had been approved in the following categories:

- Housing Assistance: \$114.7
- Other Needs Assistance: \$15.3
- Small Business Administration Loans: \$237.6

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Annual Conference Attracts Nearly 400 Attendees

Governor Culver welcomed close to 400 attendees to the Fifth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference on Sept. 30 at Embassy Suites in Des Moines. Gov. Culver opened the two-day event by briefing attendees about the progress being made with flood recovery efforts throughout Iowa.

Session highlights included presentations on the threat of terrorism, the 2007 I-35 bridge collapse in Minnesota, the tornado catastrophes in Greensburg, Kan., and Parkersburg, Iowa, managing persons at risk for

threatening behavior, the private sector response to emergencies and disasters, and how to manage donations during such events.

The conference was preceded by a day-long training session in "The Art of Deterrence" by the San Diego-based HALO Corporation. Tomer Benito provided detailed information about terror operations, putting together a plan to combat terrorism and deterrence measures to use when dealing with suspected terrorists.



Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood of the Iowa National Guard discussed role of the PIO in the Parkersburg tornado disaster.

Iowans Begin Recovery With HMGP Grants

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of the funds for the grant come from FEMA and FEMA has a review step in the process, the grant is operated at the state level by HSEMD.

- Under HMGP, once the property is acquired the land is turned into green space — typically a park — forever. This reduces damages in terms of property and potential loss of life from future disasters. It can also have long term consequences for cities and counties because the land cannot be developed, reducing potential tax revenue. This is a differentiation point with the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which does allow property to be developed.
- HSEMD funds cities and counties who perform the final negotiations with the

property owners. The cities and counties work with their local citizens to determine the property submitted to be purchased.

- HMGP is a voluntary program. Property owners must agree to be part of the program and in return they receive the fair market value before the event.

The next step in the buyout program is for cities and counties to complete a formal application for these grant dollars. In this application the jurisdictions will list the specific addresses they believe are eligible by January 28. HSEMD staff will be helping the jurisdictions with this process to ensure that properties are in a flood prone area — floodways or 100 year flood plains — and have sustained at least 50 percent in damages. These applications are

then sent to FEMA for a review and when that is completed funds are allocated to the jurisdictions for the final negotiations with property owners.

This will be a lengthy process because of the long-term impact to the towns and counties that participate. It is anticipated that the final steps will be taken in the spring of 2009.

In addition to acquiring property, HMGP funds also have supported other mitigation projects such as tornado shelters and flood walls. The HMGP staff is working at the Joint Field Office and has been ramping up staff to handle the work associated with this program. Iowa will receive 20 percent of all FEMA assistance, both individual assistance and public assistance, to fund the program.

Approved Disaster Funding Tops \$729 Million

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- Public Assistance Obligated: \$361.8

The deadline for impacted residents to apply for Individual Assistance is Oct. 31. The Individual Assistance program includes assistance for temporary disaster housing and for the repair of disaster-damaged homes, returning them to livable condition. Residents may also be eligible for other needs assistance programs for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs. Seventy-eight counties were designated for Individual Assistance. Homeowners, renters, private non-profit organizations and businesses of all sizes may also be eligible for low-interest disaster loans from the Small Business Administration. For information on registering for assistance, see information on the right side of this page.

Public Assistance Aid Exceeds \$350 Million

Eighty-four counties have been designated for Public Assistance. Public Assistance funds pay the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and utilities. The deadline for submission of requests for Public Assistance is Oct. 13.

More than \$350 million in Public Assistance has been granted to the state by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to



aid in the rebuilding process for communities in Iowa devastated by this spring's flooding and tornadoes. To date, FEMA and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division have received more than 1,080 requests for Public Assistance.

After a disaster strikes, eligible applicants work with HSEMD and FEMA to assess damage and calculate the assistance needed to repair and rebuild. The partners work together to make sure local governments and agencies receive every eligible dollar of assistance available to them. Once a need is identified, state and federal representatives work one-on-one with applicants to assess costs for reimbursement or determine proposed project costs. Once approved, FEMA authorizes the funding to the state, which then distributes it to local recipients. Federal funds cover 90 percent of the cost of most of these projects. The state pays 10 percent of the remaining costs.

FEMA Site Announces Partnership with USFA

FEMA's Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web site, **LLIS.gov**, is pleased to announce a new partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The USFA strives to provide national leadership to local fire and emergency services departments. To highlight the new partnership, **LLIS.gov** has created a new USFA resource page where members can access USFA technical and special reports, related **LLIS.gov** original content, featured documents and valuable links. To access the resource page, log onto **LLIS.gov** and click on U.S. Fire Administration under **LLIS.GOV PARTNERS**.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback, please contact feedback@llis.dhs.gov.



FEMA

How to Register for Assistance

Individuals may register for assistance online at www.fema.gov anytime or by calling toll-free **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **1-800-462-7585** for those with hearing or speech impairments. Representatives are available from **7 a.m.-11 p.m., seven days a week**. Applicants may also call those numbers to check on the status and update their applications or report any additional damage.

Five Counties Granted Governor's Disaster Proclamations

Five counties have been granted governor's disaster proclamations following flooding Sept. 12-14.

Governor Culver issued disaster proclamations for Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Lee, and Van Buren Counties following severe storms that moved across the southeastern portion of the state last month.

The governor's proclamations activate Iowa's individual assistance program for the declared counties, which provides disaster

assistance to affected people with low incomes. Iowans with household incomes of up to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines may apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to help recover from flood damage. This is a reimbursement program, meaning that applicants must include receipts when applying for help.

For information on how to apply for help visit the Storm Help link on the front page of the Iowa Department of Human Services Web site at dhs.iowa.gov.



Jumpstart Iowa Assists Communities Affected by Tornadoes, Flooding

The Jumpstart Iowa Recovery Initiative is a \$40-million housing and economic development program developed to address the immediate financial needs of Iowans affected by the spring tornadoes and flooding. The assistance provided through Jumpstart Iowa will help bridge the gap between the immediate needs and the first installment of the \$85 million in Community Development Block Grant Funding distributed by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency. Funding for the initiative is being drawn from existing state funds, and will be distributed through designated councils of government and cities.

The initiative contains two new programs: one to address housing needs in impacted communities, and one to help small businesses damaged by this year's severe weather. The Jumpstart Iowa Housing Assistance Program is administered through the Iowa Finance Authority. This program will help homeowners either make a down payment on a new house, repair their current home, or maintain their mortgages while waiting for a potential buyout from FEMA. The maximum award is a \$50,000 loan, plus an additional \$10,000 for energy-efficient appliances, all of which will be forgiven if the homeowner stays in the house for 10 years.

The Jumpstart Iowa Small Business Assistance Program is administered through the Iowa Department of Economic Development and will provide forgivable loans to small businesses. The funds will help pay down their Small Business Administration loans and will provide funding to promote sustainable rebuilding efforts. The loans will be forgiven if the business opens its doors within 12 months of receiving funds.

To learn more about the initiative and how to get assistance, go to www.jumpstart.iowa.gov.

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Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond, 515-725-3271 or stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HSEMD Undergoes Personnel Changes

There have been several additions and changes in full-time permanent staff within HSEMD since this past spring. Over the next few newsletters, we will provide updates on the recent changes in the bureaus and a more in-depth look at our new employees.

Grants Bureau

Since the end of May, HSEMD has welcomed several public assistance project officers: **Craig Bargfrede**, **Jim Berg**, **Rick Biondi**, **Mark Middleton**, **Tom Oswald**, **Scott Stanley**, and **Jim Wiese**. **Scott Stanley**, a member of the Iowa National Guard, is being deployed to active duty.

In addition, **Laura Carlson** joined the bureau in June and is currently serving as the administrative assistant to the state coordinating officer at the Joint Field Office. **Jim Russell** has served as a hazard mitigation project officer since May.

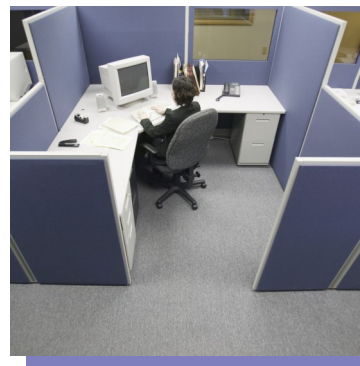
Michael Raes joined the grants bureau as a budget analyst in April.

Bonnie Rieder has been relocated to the Department of Public Defense State Fiscal Office.

Communications and Technology Bureau

Kathy Karn became a 911 program planner in April. She had previously worked as an administrative assistant for the homeland security bureau.

In October, information technology specialist **John Pommer** will move to the State Fiscal Office information technology staff, along with **Dave Klinkefus**, who joined the HSEMD information technology team in September and who works primarily at the Joint Field Office.



Readiness and Response Bureau

Linda Madison retired from state government in July. She has relocated to Arizona to be with her family.

Pebble Holland accepted a position with the Iowa Department of Transportation. Her last day with the bureau was Thursday, Oct. 2. Pebble leaves with the distinction of being the longest-serving employee of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

Tara Hattery has joined the bureau as an administrative assistant. Tara was previously with the Department of Administrative Services—General Services Enterprise. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri. Tara lives in Bondurant and will be married in January 2009.

Joyce Flinn was recently chosen as the new Readiness and Response bureau chief. Joyce has been with the division since 1997 and in that time has managed numerous programs and projects. Joyce has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Simpson College.

Look for more employee updates in our next issue!